

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00893 081100Z

12
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 MC-02 IGA-01 INR-07 L-02 SS-15

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P 080750Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0135

S E C R E T JIDDA 0893

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA

SUBJ: PROPOSED USMTM SALES CASE UNZ

REF : A. DICKMAN/SOBER MEMO JAN 27, 1975; B. JIDDA 0093;
C. PROPOSED LETTER OF OFFER, CASE UNZ, DATED DEC 4,
1974; D. USMTM DTG 221303Z JAN 75 (NOTAL: BEING RE-
PEATED FOR DEPT.)

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED REF A AND IS SURPRISED BY
SUGGESTION THAT PROPOSED SALES CASE UNZ MAY NO LONGER BE
A VALID PROPOSAL, AS WELL AS BY IMPLICATION THAT TRANS-
ITION TO FULLY-SAG-FUNDED TAF TEAM ADVISORY EFFORT MIGHT
TAKE PLACE TIHIN FAIRLY SHORT PERIOD.

2. WE UNDERSTAND CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES TO INSURE THAT
HOST GOVERNMENT PAY LARGEST SHARE POSSIBLE OF COSTS OF
MILITARY ADVISORY MISSIONS. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHIEF
OF THE U.S. MILITARY TRAINING MISSION WE HAVE AGREDD TO
PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD GRADUALLY SHIFT PRESENT U.S. ADVISORY
EFFORT TO TAF TEAM BASIS. IT HAS BEEN OUR UNDERSTANDING,
HOWEVER, THAT THIS TRANSITION WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED
SLOWLY AND THAT DURING THE THREE YEARS OF THE PROPOSED
FMS CASE THE NUMBER OF USMTM PERSONNEL WOULD DECLINE FROM
THE PRESENTLY AUTHORIZED 151 TO 106 BY THE END OF FISCAL
YEAR 1978. FY 1979 WOULD THEN SEE A RAPID DROP IN USMTM

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PERSONNEL TO A TOTAL OF 34 ONLY WHICH WOULD SERVE AS THE

COMMAND AND COORDINATING GROUP SUPERVISING THE WORK OF THE VARIOUS TAF TEAMS. IF THIS GRADUALIST APPROACH IS ADOPTED, FUNDS TO BE PROVIDED THROUGH UNZ WOULD STILL BE VERY MUCH NEEDED EVEN THOUGH THE NUMBER OF SAG-FUNDED TAF TEAMS WOULD CONTINUE TO INCREASE THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD.

3. IT SEEMS TO US THAT ANY TRANSITION TO THE TAF TEAM MECHANISM MUST BE A GRADUAL ONE WHICH DOES NOT UPSET PRESENT WORKING RELATIONSHIPS NOR GIVE RISE TO UNDUE SAUDI CONCERN. NUMBERS OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN SAUDI ARABIA, WHILE INCREASING, WILL NOT BE UNDULY AFFECTED BY SOURCE OR MANNER OF THEIR FUNDING. IF PRIMARY CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN IS DESIRE TO RELIEVE U.S. TAXPAYER OF FINANCIAL BURDEN OF SUBSIDIZING MILITARY ADVICE TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, THIS OBJECTIVE WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY SAUDI ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSED CASE UNZ AND WE SEE NO ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED BY ATTEMPTING TO TELESCOPE INTO A SHORT PERIOD THE TRANSITION PROCESS. IT IS STILL OUR BELIEF THAT OUR BEST COURSE IS TO PRESENT PROPOSED CASE UNZ AND PROPOSED DRAFT MOU TO MODA AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. SHOULD SAG DELAY UNDULY IN SIGNING UNZ THEN, OF COURSE, WE WOULD HAVE NO OPTION BUT TO SPEED UP TRANSITION TO TAF TEAM FUNDING.

4. CONCERNING FORM DD 1513 DATED DECEMBER 4, 1974, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT PARAGRAPH 5.A SHOULD BE ELIMINATED IN ITS ENTIRETY PRIOR TO PRESENTATION OF LETTER OF OFFER. FIRST, ANY REFERENCE TO POSSIBILITY THAT USG MIGHT CEASE TO PAY SALARIES, ALLOWANCES, AND PCS TRAVEL EXPENSES OF USMTM PERSONNEL RUNS COUNTER TO PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH 8.B OF 1953 AGREEMENT; AND SECOND, WE BELIEVE THAT ANY REFERENCE TO FACT THAT STUDY IS UNDER WAY TO DETERMINE POSSIBLE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF ADVISORS TO BE PAID FOR THROUGH ADDITIONAL FMS CASES MIGHT RESULT IN MINDEF SUSPENDING CONSIDERATION OF UNZ UNTIL WE INFORM HIM OF RESULTS OF STUDY. BELIEVE PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE PARAGRAPH 5.A RECOMMENDED BY USMTM (REF D) IS BEST WAY AROUND THIS PROBLEM.

AKINS

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